COMMENDING JESSE JACKSON/Passage

SUBJECT: Commending Jesse Jackson for his successful efforts to secure the release of American prisoners held captive by Yugoslavia . . . S.Res. 94. Passage.

ACTION: RESOLUTION AGREED TO, 92-0

SYNOPSIS: As introduced and passed, S.Res. 94 will resolve: "that the Senate commends the Reverend Jesse Jackson for his successful efforts in securing the release of Sergeant Ramirez, Sergeant Stone, and Specialist Gonzales, and for his leadership and actions arising from his deep faith in God; and the Senate joins the families of Sergeant Ramirez, Sergeant Stone, and Specialist Gonzales in expressing relief and joy at their safe release."

Those favoring passage contended:

Jesse Jackson and the religious leaders who accompanied him to Serbia performed a great humanitarian service in securing the release of the 3 American soldiers who were being held captive there. Some people have questioned whether that trip might have harmful effects on our military campaign against Serbia or whether it may have had harmful political effects. We are not going to get into that debate. We commend Jesse Jackson for his success. We also commend Congressman Blagojevich, the only Serbian-American in the House, for using his connections in Serbia to help make the trip possible.

While favoring passage, some Senators expressed the following reservations:

We are happy and relieved that the soldiers have been released and will vote for this resolution on that basis only. We oppose private diplomacy that is at odds with our country's objectives, and we are not about to praise any public relations' stunts that benefit Milosevic.

No arguments were expressed in opposition to passage.

YEAS (92)				NAYS (0)		NOT VOTING (3)	
		nocrats	Republicans (0 or 0%)	Democrats (0 or 0%)	Republicans	Democrats (3)	
		(42 or 100%)			(0)		
Abraham Allard Ashcroft Bennett Bond Brownback Bunning Burns Campbell Chafee Cochran Collins Coverdell Craig Crapo DeWine Domenici Enzi Frist Gorton Gramm Gramm Gramm Grams Grassley Gregg Hagel	Hatch Hutchinson Hutchison Inhofe Jeffords Kyl Lott Lugar Mack McCain McConnell Murkowski Nickles Roberts Roth Santorum Shelby Smith, Bob Smith, Gordon Snowe Specter Stevens Thompson Thurmond Voinovich	Akaka Baucus Bayh Biden Bingaman Boxer Breaux Bryan Byrd Cleland Conrad Daschle Dodd Durbin Edwards Feingold Feinstein Graham Harkin Hollings Inouye	Johnson Kennedy Kerrey Kerry Kohl Lautenberg Leahy Levin Lieberman Lincoln Mikulski Murray Reed Reid Robb Rockefeller Sarbanes Schumer Torricelli Wellstone Wyden			VOTING PF Fitzgerald Helms Sessions Thomas Warner EXPLANAT 1—Official E 2—Necessari 3—Illness 4—Other SYMBOLS: AY—Annour AN—Annour PY—Paired N PN—Paired N	CION OF ABSENG Business Ily Absent Inced Yea Inced Yea Inced Nay Yea